

## CHAPTER 1: Democratic Citizenship and the Ethics of Public Speaking

### *Multiple-Choice Questions*

1. What proportion of U.S. citizens vote, in comparison to voters in other of the world's democracies?

- A) U.S. citizens vote in far greater numbers than those in other democracies.
- B) U.S. citizens vote in slightly higher numbers than those in other democracies.
- C) U.S. citizens trail most of the world's other democracies.
- D) U.S. citizens trail all other democracies.

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** 1.1 Discuss what it means to be a “good citizen.”

**Topic:** Public Speaking and Civic Engagement

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

2. Reading newspapers, voting in elections, and participating in voluntary and civic associations are all signs of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) civic engagement
- B) widespread apathy
- C) deteriorating democracy
- D) government's dominance

**Answer:** A

**Learning Objective:** 1.1 Discuss what it means to be a “good citizen.”

**Topic:** Public Speaking and Civic Engagement

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

3. What recent historical event “interrupted” the downward trend in “political consciousness and engagement”?

- A) the attempted assassination of President Reagan
- B) the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001
- C) the success of unmanned missions to Mars
- D) the debate over the “Dream Act”

**Answer:** B

**Learning Objective:** 1.1 Discuss what it means to be a “good citizen.”

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**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Answer: C**

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**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

8. When activists emerge who are highly passionate about a particular cause, a healthy response is to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) criticize them for their radical view
- B) ask that they be made silent
- C) allow them to have their say
- D) communicate forcefully and proactively to drown out their voice

**Answer: C**

**Learning Objective:** 1.1 Discuss what it means to be a “good citizen.”

**Topic:** Public Speaking and Civic Engagement

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

9. \_\_\_\_\_ helps citizens recognize the difference between an informed opinion and one grounded in ignorance and prejudice, as well as to formulate a better opinion themselves.

- A) Listening to their favorite radio talk show personality for talking points
- B) Religiously viewing cable news shows that reflect their ideological view
- C) Keeping up with current events from multiple, credible sources and weighing all arguments
- D) Attending a political rally for the candidate of their choice during a political campaign

**Answer: C**

**Learning Objective:** 1.1 Discuss what it means to be a “good citizen.”

**Topic:** Public Speaking and Civic Engagement

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

10. During a question-and-answer session after a speech in which she had advocated school uniforms for students, Randi politely and open-mindedly listened as fellow citizens raised questions, suggested alternatives, and even disagreed with what she believed to be true. Randi’s behavior reveals her \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) commitment to respect the opinions of others
- B) inability to effectively debate her position when challenged
- C) willingness to pander to her listeners to maintain her image
- D) lack of conviction in her own position

**Answer: A**

**Learning Objective:** 1.1 Discuss what it means to be a “good citizen,” and **Learning**

**Objective:** 1.3 Distinguish between ethical persuasion and demagoguery.

**Topic:** Public Speaking and Civic Engagement and Deliberation and Demagoguery in the Twenty-First Century

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts and Apply What You Know

11. In the mid-1990s, which issue prompted 85-year-old Doris Haddock to walk across the United States, addressing citizens along the way to rally their support?

- A) campaign finance reform
- B) prescription drug benefits for seniors
- C) Social Security reform
- D) Medicare and Medicaid reform

**Answer:** A

**Learning Objective:** 1.1 Discuss what it means to be a “good citizen.”

**Topic:** Public Speaking and Civic Engagement

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

12. \_\_\_\_\_ has long been considered an important part of democratic citizenship.

- A) The ability to contribute campaign dollars
- B) The ability to communicate in public
- C) The ability to hold a political office
- D) The ability to expose an opponent’s shortcomings

**Answer:** B

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Explain how the rhetorical tradition relates to civic engagement.

**Topic:** The Rhetorical Tradition and the Ethics of Speech

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

13. What are the implications of living in a diverse, multicultural society?

- A) We can no longer discuss important issues and find common ground.
- B) It is more important than ever that we rise above our own selfish interests.
- C) We no longer face the same problems but a different, more subtle set.
- D) We do not share the same dreams and aspirations as our fellow citizens.

**Answer:** B

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Discuss the legal and ethical obligations of the responsible citizen-speaker.

**Topic:** The Responsible Citizen-Speaker

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts and Apply What You Know

14. If we hope to resolve the difficult problems we face, we must \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) *increase* the decibel level of American politics
- B) score enough political points to *defeat* opponents
- C) find a way to silence the highly *passionate* voices

D) learn to deliberate *together* and find common ground

**Answer:** D

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Explain how the rhetorical tradition relates to civic engagement.

**Topic:** The Rhetorical Tradition and the Ethics of Speech

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

**Skill Level:** Know the Facts

15. Public speaking in a democratic society must be \_\_\_\_\_.

A) grounded in a strong code of ethics and a commitment to the public good

B) careful to avoid tough political issues that some might find offensive

C) loyal to the views of an established political party, even when controversial

D) effective in discouraging dissent and criticism in an attempt to achieve consensus

**Answer:** A

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Explain how the rhetorical tradition relates to civic engagement, and

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Distinguish between ethical persuasion and demagoguery.

**Topic:** The Rhetorical Tradition and the Ethics of Speech and Deliberation and Demagoguery in the Twenty-First Century

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

16. What are the implications for us given that we reside in a “media-saturated world”?

A) We can take great confidence in knowing our society is more informed than ever.

B) We must rely on our government and religious leaders to interpret media content.

C) We can rely on consumer watchdogs to protect us against those who would deceive us.

D) We must learn to distinguish between a reasonable argument and an attempt to deceive.

**Answer:** D

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Explain how the rhetorical tradition relates to civic engagement.

**Topic:** The Rhetorical Tradition and the Ethics of Speech

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

17. Jerome took classes in public speaking and history, and he reads widely about current events from reputable news agencies. As a result, he honed his ability to evaluate claims, weigh all the evidence, and come to reasoned conclusions based on a careful examination of the arguments on all sides of an issue. Jerome has become \_\_\_\_\_.

A) a citizen-critic

B) a consumer watchdog

C) a proponent of competing claims

D) an advocate skilled in manipulation

**Answer:** A

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Explain how the rhetorical tradition relates to civic engagement.

**Topic:** The Rhetorical Tradition and the Ethics of Speech

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

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**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

22. Desari is uncertain whether she should cite a source regarding how survival rates have dramatically improved the past few decades for several types of cancer. She thinks the progress should be common knowledge and, hence, require no use of source material, but she is not sure. What would you advise her to do for her speech?

- A) Trust your instincts that such progress is, indeed, common knowledge.
- B) Know such progress *is* common knowledge and your classmates should know so.
- C) Ask for a show of hands during your speech to discern whether to cite a source.
- D) Verify what you believe in one or more reputable sources and cite one of them.

**Answer:** D

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Explain how the rhetorical tradition relates to civic engagement.

**Topic:** The Rhetorical Tradition and the Ethics of Speech

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

23. Roberto liked the senator's idea that legislators should not vote themselves another pay increase until they have raised the minimum wage. He used the idea in his speech, choosing to paraphrase rather than quote the senator verbatim. What is Roberto's ethical responsibility while presenting that idea?

- A) Using his own wording removes the need to acknowledge the senator.
- B) Even though he's using his own wording, he must give credit to the senator.
- C) He should cite the senator only if the senator is someone his listeners respect.
- D) He should quote the senator verbatim, rather than dare use other language.

**Answer:** B

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Explain how the rhetorical tradition relates to civic engagement.

**Topic:** The Rhetorical Tradition and the Ethics of Speech

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

24. Joe is trying to finish his speech about gun control. He reads on a blog that death rate due to gun violence has risen 12% in the last year but cannot figure out how the blogger arrived at the number. What is the best choice Joe can make?

- A) Cite the blogger, but not mention that she is a blogger and not an expert.
- B) Paraphrase the statistic in his own words instead of citing it directly.
- C) Keep searching for a better source on gun violence, rather than cite the blogger.
- D) Cite the blogger, but mention that she is a blogger and not an expert.

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Explain how the rhetorical tradition relates to civic engagement.

**Topic:** The Rhetorical Tradition and the Ethics of Speech